

Listing of Claims

1-16 (Cancelled)

17. (Original) An apparatus configured to support at least a portion of a body thereon, the apparatus comprising:

an inflatable first layer including a plurality of support zones;

a second layer positioned between the first layer and the portion of the body to be supported, the second layer including a spacing structure; and

a controller configured to control the pressure in each support zone of the plurality of support zones of the inflatable first layer, the inflatable first layer configured to provide a static support surface wherein a first support zone is configured to be generally pressurized at a first pressure and a second support zone is configured to be generally pressurized at a second pressure, the second pressure differing from the first pressure.

18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the first support zone generally corresponds to the head of the body to be supported and the second support zone generally corresponds to the feet of the body to be supported.

19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein each of the plurality of support zones includes a plurality of bladders.

20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the inflatable first layer is configured to provide at least one therapy to the portion of the body supported thereon.

21. (Original) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein at least one of the support zones of the inflatable first layer is configured to provide a percussion therapy.

22. (Original) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the plurality of bladders of the at least one support zone configured to provide percussion therapy are inflated and deflated at a rate of between about 1 Hertz to about 25 Hertz.

23. (Original) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein at least one of the support zones of the inflatable first layer is configured to provide an alternating pressure therapy.

24. (Original) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein all of the support zones of the inflatable first layer are configured to provide an alternating pressure therapy.

25. (Original) The apparatus of claims 17, wherein the spacing structure includes a three dimensional engineered material having a plurality of resilient members.

26. (Original) The apparatus of claims 17, wherein the spacing structure includes indented fiber networks.

27. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17, further comprising a cover configured to confine at least the second layer of the first layer and the second layer and including a first portion positioned adjacent the portion of the body to be supported, the first portion including a moisture vapor permeable material.

28. (Original) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the cover is coupled to a source of air to provide air circulation through the second layer and the through the moisture vapor permeable material of the first portion of the cover.

29. (Original) The apparatus of claim 28, further comprising a heating element to provide heat to at least a portion of the body supported thereon.

30. (Original) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the heating element is controlled by the controller.

31. (Original) An apparatus configured to support at least a portion of a body thereon, the apparatus comprising:

an inflatable first layer including a plurality of support zones, the plurality of support zones including a first support zone which generally corresponds to the chest region of the body;

a second layer positioned between the first layer and the portion of the body to be supported, the second layer comprising a spacing structure;

a controller configured to control the pressure of each support zone of the first

inflatable layer and further to control the pressure of the first support zone to provide a percussion therapy to the chest region of the body; and

a cover positioned between the second layer and the portion of the body to be supported.

32. (Original) The apparatus of claim 31, wherein the cover includes a portion made of a moisture vapor permeable material.

33. (Original) The apparatus of claim 32, wherein the cover defines an interior region, the second layer being positioned within the interior region.

34. (Original) The apparatus of claim 33, further comprising a source of air coupled to the cover such that air is forced through the second layer.

35. (Original) The apparatus of claim 31, wherein the cover defines an interior region, the second layer being positioned within the interior region, and at least a portion of a top surface of the cover is made from a breathable material, the portion of the top surface and the second layer cooperating to provide cooling for the body supported on the portion of the top surface.

36. (Original) The apparatus of claim 35, further comprising a source of air coupled to the cover to provide air circulation through the second layer.

37. (Original) The apparatus of claim 31, wherein the inflatable first layer is further configured to provide an alternating pressure therapy.

38. (Original) The apparatus of claim 31, wherein the inflatable first layer is further configured to provide a rotational therapy.

39. (Original) The apparatus of claim 31, wherein the spacing structure includes a three dimensional engineered material having a plurality of resilient members.

40. (Original) The apparatus of claim 31, wherein the spacing structure includes indented fiber networks.

41. (New) An apparatus configured to support at least a portion of a body

thereon, the apparatus comprising:

a base portion including an inflatable first layer having a plurality of support zones, each zone having associated support characteristics;

a pressure distribution layer supported by at least a first zone of the base portion, the pressure distribution layer including a spacing structure configured to provide air passage therethrough and to distribute pressure from the body over a greater area of the first zone; and

a controller configured to control the pressure in each support zone of the plurality of support zones of the inflatable first layer.

42. (New) The apparatus of claim 41, further comprising a cover positioned between the pressure distribution layer and the portion of the body to be supported, the cover being coupled to a first source of air to provide air circulation through the pressure distribution layer.

43. (New) The apparatus of claim 42, wherein the cover includes a first portion made from a moisture vapor permeable material, the first portion of the cover and the pressure distribution layer cooperating to provide cooling to the body.

44. (New) The apparatus of claim 41, wherein the inflatable first layer includes a plurality of inflatable bladders, each of the plurality of support zones including at least one of the plurality of bladders.

45. (New) The apparatus of claim 44, wherein the controller controls the pressure of the plurality of bladders of at least the first support zone to provide alternating pressure therapy to the body.

46. (New) The apparatus of claim 44, wherein the first support zone generally supports the chest region of the body and the controller controls the pressure of the plurality of bladders of at least the first support zone to provide percussion therapy to the chest region of the body.

47. (New) The apparatus of claim 46, wherein the plurality of bladders of the

at least one support zone configured to provide percussion therapy are inflated and deflated at a rate of between about 1 Hertz to about 25 Hertz.

48. (New) The apparatus of claim 44, wherein the controller controls the pressure of the plurality of bladders of at least the first support zone to provide rotational therapy to the body.

49. (New) The apparatus of claim 44, wherein the base portion is coupled to a second source of air, the amount of air received by the pressure distribution layer from the first source of air and the amount of air received by the base portion from the second source of air being controlled by the controller.

50. (New) The apparatus of claim 44, further comprising a heating element to provide heat to at least a portion of the body supported thereon.

51. (New) The apparatus of claim 50, wherein the heating element is controlled by the controller.

52. (New) The apparatus of claim 41, wherein the pressure distribution layer is supported by each zone of the base portion and is positioned in an interior region of the cover.

53. (New) The apparatus of claim 52, wherein the base portion is positioned in the interior region of the cover.

54. (New) The apparatus of claim 41, wherein the spacing structure includes a three dimensional engineered material having a plurality of resilient members.

55. (New) The apparatus of claim 41, wherein the spacing structure includes indented fiber networks.

56. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein at least one support zone of the base portion includes a foam portion.